

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/687,834

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants are enclosing herewith one (1) sheet of replacement drawings, which include FIGS. 12 and 13. The legend --Prior Art-- has been added to FIGS. 12 and 13, and is intended to replace FIGS. 12 and 13 as filed on October 20, 2003.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Formal Matters

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, indicating that Figs. 12 and 13 should be labeled as prior art. In response, Applicant has labeled these figures --Prior Art--.

The Examiner has objected to the use of the phrase “according to the invention” in the abstract. As such, Applicant has deleted this phrase from the abstract.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 2, 7, and 8, alleging minor informalities. In response, Applicant has amended these claims as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-10 are all of the pending claims. New independent claims 9 and 10 have been added. Claims 1, 9, and 10 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103

Claims 1, 3, and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Shichi et al. (US 6,313,407). Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shichi.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant has amended the claim to recite that the core lines are spread along the respective water cutoff portions in the recessed shape and the projected shape. This amendment is fully supported in the original specification at least by the exemplary embodiment shown at Fig. 3B and discussed at page 9, lines 16-20.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection at least because Shichi does not disclose the claimed water cutoff structure in which the core lines are spread along the respective water cutoff portions in the recessed shape and the projected shape.

Shinchi discloses a water cutoff structure having a first member 11, second members 12, and core lines (within W1, W2).¹ However, Shinchi's core lines are provided together and *are not spread along* respective water cutoff portions.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 2

With respect to dependent claim 2, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection at least because of its dependency from claim 1 and because Shinchi does not teach or suggest that the first and second members 11, 12 have *curved faces*.

To support this rejection, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to modify Shinchi so that it included curved faces because "it appears that Shinchi would perform equally well with the modification."² However, this is not the case. The curved faces allow core lines 10a of the covered wire to be spread along the respective cutoff portions.³

Claim 3

With respect to dependent claim 3, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection at least because of its dependency from claim 1 and because Shinchi does not teach or suggest that each of the first and second water cutoff portions includes a recessed face and a projected face which are aligned in *a longitudinal direction* of the covered wire. For example, any recesses and projections shown in Fig. 3 of Shichi are not aligned in *a longitudinal*

¹ See Shichi at Figs. 2 and 3.

² See Office Action dated December 16, 2005 at page 7.

³ See Specification at page 9, lines 16-20.

direction of the covered wire. Instead, the projections and recess are aligned a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the covered wire.

Claims 4-8

With respect to dependent claim 4-8, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection at least because of their dependency from claim 1.

New Claims

Applicant has added new independent claim 9, which includes the recitations of original claims 1+2. Applicant respectfully submits that this claim is patentable at least because Shinchi does not teach or suggest that each of the first and second water cutoff portions includes a recessed face and a projected face which are aligned in *a longitudinal direction* of the covered wire, as is discussed above with respect to dependent claim 2.

Finally, Applicant has added new independent claim 10, which includes the recitations of original claims 1+3. Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 10 is patentable at least because Shinchi does not teach or suggest that each of the first and second water cutoff portions includes a recessed face and a projected face which are aligned in *a longitudinal direction* of the covered wire, as discussed above with respect to dependent claim 3.

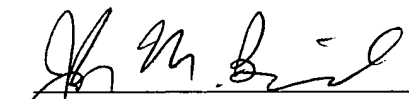
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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